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EVANS AND NOVAK BONUS SPECIAL

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BY ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK

WASHINGTON -- President Reagan's senior advisers have turned thumbs down on Secretary of State Alexander Haig's efforts to assume control over almost all aspects of national security policy; setting up the first major power struggle within the new administration.

Reagan's two cabinet-level staffers, counselor Edwin Meese III and chief of staff James Baker, are rewriting drafts of Haig-prepared presidential directives that would have given the State Department authority over almost all U.S. activities beyond the nation's borders. That has led to the crack inside the White House that Gen. Haig wants to be "CINCHORLD" (commander in chief, world).

While Meese and Baker expect to complete their rewrite by the end of next week, Haig is a veteran infighter not likely to give up easily. He may not get all he wants, but will press for more than Meese and Baker want to give him.

Haig surprised the White House when, within two hours after the presidential party had left the parade reviewing stand inaugural day, he pulled the two draft directives out of his briefcase (National Security No. 1 and No. 2). "They defined as foreign policy everything taking place outside the borders of the U.S.," said one White House aide.

That meant Haig would be the self-described "vicar" of not only foreign relations in its conventional sense as Reagan proposed but also of economic policy, foreign trade and military alliances. Meese and Baker sidetracked the directives, redrafting them so State would share policy-making with other government departments such as Treasury, Defense, Commerce and the CIA.